

No.	Name of Work.	Amount of Expenditure.
REPAIRS— <i>continued.</i>		
<i>West Thána.</i>		Rs. a. p.
1	Repairs to the Range Forest Office at Bassein ...	24 6 0
2	Do. do. at Thána ...	19 5 2
3	Do. do. at Kelve Máhim ...	24 14 7
4	Do. Forest Dépôt house at Manor ...	14 14 8
5	Do. do. at Sawta ...	14 15 6
6	Do. do. at Pálghar ...	13 14 6
7	Do. do. at Sanján ...	14 15 9
		302 1 4
Total ...		3,367 6 7

(b).—PROTECTION OF FORESTS FROM INJURY.

(1)—*General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.*

(a).—*General Protection.*

41. The protective establishment has remained unchanged during the year.

42. Reference was made last year (paragraph 62) to the weakness of the establishment for the work required of it. Nearly all the Divisional Forest Officers record a similar complaint this year and for the most part are supported by the Collectors as may be seen from the remarks recorded by the latter, in forwarding the divisional reports, which are given at length in the concluding chapter of this report (para. 121)

43. In the Dángs especially it is found most difficult to obtain recruits to fill vacancies as the pay is not considered sufficient to out-balance the deadly climate and the isolation from families and caste.

44. The other remarks recorded under this head last year hold good.

(b).—*Breaches of Forest Law.*

45. The following is a comparative statement of the cases tried before Magistrates for breaches of the Forest law during the year under report and the preceding year :—

No.	Division.	1892-93.		1893-94.		Percentage of failures.	
		Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	1892-93.	1893-94.
1	East Thána ...	110	43	152	55	39	36·1
2	West Thána ...	108	17	62	31	15·7	50·
3	Surat ...	3	...	2	...	...	...
4	Panch Maháls ...	13	2	14	3	15·4	21·4
Total ...		234	62	230	89	26·5	38·7

46. The number of cases, it will be seen, is almost the same as last year (though last year's figures were for 15 months), but the increased proportion of acquittals is to be regretted. The Divisional Forest Officer, West Thána, attempts an explanation which, however, is not accepted by the Collector. It must be remembered that the total number of cases is very small to give a

steady average and a very few actual extra acquittals make the proportional increase look enormous. I think that this is the real explanation of the fluctuation. This increase, however, coming in continuation of that reported last year, is unfortunate.

47. In the following statement comparison is made between the numbers of cases in which prosecutions were instituted for the two years 1892-93 and 1893-94 under the four different heads of crime, as prescribed by the Forest Department Code:—

No.	Division.	Injury to Forest by Fire.		Unauthorized felling or appropriation of Wood and minor Forest Produce.		Grazing without Permission or in Tracts in which Grazing is prohibited.		Other offences.		Total.	
		1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.
1	East Thána ...	7	4	125	151	2	5	2	9	136	169
2	West Thána ...	2	2	97	60	5	1	8	9	112	72
3	Surat ...	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	3	2
4	Panch Maháls ...	...	1	11	14	1	2	...	...	12	17
	Total ...	9	7	235	226	8	9	11	18	263	260

48. The following table exhibits the nature and character of the offences tried by Magistrates during the year under report:—

No.	Division.	OFFENCES RELATING TO THE MISAPPROPRIATION OF				Total.
		(a) Timber.	(b) Firewood.	(c) Minor Forest Produce.	(d) Other offences.	
1	East Thána ...	81	43	22	6	152
2	West Thána ...	37	15	3	7	62
3	Surat ...	1	...	...	1	2
4	Panch Maháls ...	9	2	...	3	14
	Total ...	128	60	25	17	230

49. The classification of undetected cases is given below:—

No.	Division.	Injury to Forest by Fire.		Unauthorized felling or appropriation of Wood and minor Forest Produce.		Grazing without Permission or in Tracts in which Grazing is prohibited.		Other offences.		Total.	
		1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.
1	East Thána ...	152	234	270	460	...	...	...	...	422	694
2	West Thána ...	177	126	138	119	...	...	29	4	334	249
3	Surat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Panch Maháls ...	...	...	26	27	...	...	...	...	26	27
	Total ...	329	360	424	606	...	...	29	4	782	970

50. The following statement shows the number of cases decided by Revenue officers under Section 43 of the Land Revenue Code, in the Thána District, as compared with that of the previous year:—

Number.	Divisions.	1892-93.					1893-94.				
		Number of Cases.	Value of Forest Produce.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Amount of Fines.	Number of Cases.	Value of Forest Produce.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Amount of Fines.
			Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.					Rs. a. p.
1	East Thána ...	12	49 7 0	...	12	50 1 0	10	50 3 0	...	10	50 0 6
2	West Thána ...	4	159 15 6	...	4	159 15 6	11	432 8 0	...	11	598 5 0
	Total ...	16	209 6 6	...	16	210 0 6	21	482 11 0	...	21	648 5 6

51. A comparative statement showing the number of cases compromised under Section 67 of the Indian Forest Act and those taken into Court, is given below :—

No.	Divisions.	Taken into Court.		Compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act.		Total Number of Cases.	
		1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.
1	East Thána	153	212	173	87	326	299
2	West Thána	121	84	122	77	243	161
3	Surat	3	2	17	7	20	9
4	Panch Maháls	14	18	107	73	121	91
	Total ...	291	316	419	244	710	560

52. The classification of the cases compounded during the year is as follows :—

Number.	Division.	OFFENCES RELATING TO THE MISAPPROPRIATION OF.				Total.
		(a) Timber.	(b) Firewood.	(c) Minor Forest Pro- duce.	(d) Other offences.	
1	East Thána... ..	39	14	19	15	87
2	West Thána	50	...	26	1	77
3	Surat	4	3	...	...	7
4	Panch Maháls	51	14	...	5	73
	Total ...	147	31	45	21	244

53. In 46 cases the offence was treated as trivial and the offenders were merely warned; the number of similar cases last year was 72.

54. The following statement gives the details in respect of money paid as compensation for forest offences compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act during 1893-94 :—

Number.	Division.	Number of Cases compounded and in which Compensation has been accepted.	Amount of Compensation.			Remarks.
			Rs.	a.	p.	
1	East Thána... ..	87	283	5	3	Rs. 93 were not recovered at the end of the year.
2	West Thána	77	313	6	6	
3	Surat	7	8	7	6	
4	Panch Maháls	73	153	0	0	
	Total ...	244	758	3	3	

55. The 244 cases of compounded offences are classified according to the amount of the fine paid in the following statement :—

No.	Division.	No. of Cases in which Compensation was fixed at Rupees																											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	30 to 39.	40 to 49.	50				
3	East Thána ...	51	10	1	4	3	5	2	...	1	2	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	87
3	West Thána ...	34	17	3	5	3	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	77
4	Surat ...	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
4	Panch Maháls ...	42	10	7	3	3	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	73
	Total ...	130	40	12	12	9	9	6	1	1	2	3	1	3	...	2	3	...	...	3	...	3	1	2	1	244	

56. The information given in the following statement is in accordance with paragraph 11 of Government Resolution No. 1899, dated 15th March 1891 :—

No.	Division.	Number of complaints disposed of under Section 67.	Number of cases in which Compensation has been accepted.	Number of appeals against the proceedings.	Manner in which the appeals have been disposed of.	Remarks.
1	East Thána	87	87	...	...
2	West Thána	114	77	...	...	In 37 cases offenders were let off with a warning.
3	Surat	10	7	...	...	Do. 3 do. do.
4	Panch Maháls	79	73	...	...	Do. 6 do. do.
	Total	290	244	...	...	46

— (b) (2)—Protection from Fire.

57. The results of the year's fire protection, as compared with those of the year 1892-93, are shown below :—

Number.	Division.	Forest Area placed under protection against Fire.		Acreage burned.		Percentage burned.	
		1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.
		Acre.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1	East Thána	451,956	451,907	18,515	17,700	4.09	3.9
2	West Thána	358,719	247,344	5,462	6,680	1.5	2.7
3	Surat	478,141	478,237	434,990	443,747	90.9	92.8
4	Panch Maháls	213,575	217,530	3,944	17,276	1.8	7.9
	Total	1,502,391	1,391,018	462,911	485,403	30.7	34.9

58. The areas recorded as burnt are much the same as those of last year, except in the Panch Maháls, where four times last year's area is reported to have been burnt in 1893-94. Mr. Fisher attributes this to more correct reporting of areas burnt. He writes : "The above figures are no doubt misleading and should be taken to indicate the submission of more complete reports of the areas burnt. There is no doubt that last year the area burnt was much under-estimated and often no reports at all were submitted. This matter having received special attention the system of reporting was much better carried out. Probably no greater area was burnt this year than last." The Collector, it will be seen (para. 121), does not attach much weight to this recorded opinion. I confess, I think, the reason advanced by Mr. Fisher is the true one for a large part of the difference, for there is no reason why the area burnt should have so largely increased, especially when, as stated by Mr. Fisher, his attention was specially directed to fire protection.

59. The Thána system of fire protection was in force during the year in Surat and the Panch Maháls.